

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 656

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Memphis Public Library and Information Center and Director Keenon McCloy for earning the National Medal of Museum and Library Service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those organizations and citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy organization is the Memphis Public Library and Information Center, which is led by Director Keenon McCloy; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Public Library and Information Center recently received the National Medal of Museum and Library Science, the country's highest honor given to libraries; it was presented to the library in a ceremony held in the East Room of the White House by First Lady Laura Bush on January 14, 2008; and

WHEREAS, this momentous award is also a credit to the sedulous efforts of the Memphis libraries' recent directors, including Lamar Wallis, Robert Croneberger, and Judith Drescher; and

WHEREAS, the 114-year-old library consummately accomplishes its worthy mission of satisfying the customer's need to know not only through its compendious offerings of traditional library services but also through its extensive community service programs, which provide, for instance, assistance to new immigrants to the community and annual tax preparation for elderly and low income patrons; and

WHEREAS, through programs such as "Training Wheels," "Paws for Reading," and "Reading to Erase Your Fine," the Memphis libraries nobly reach out to the community's youth, endeavoring to introduce them to the richness of the human experience and the vastness of our global community's cultural panorama, for which libraries are a reservoir; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Public Library and Information Center has further distinguished itself as the nation's only library to operate its own radio and television stations and to function as a 2-1-1 call center, providing information and referrals for essential services; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud both the Memphis Public Library and Information Center and Director McCloy for the outstanding dedication they have demonstrated to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the Memphis Public Library and Information Center and Director Keenon McCloy for the receipt of the National Medal of Museum and Library Science, honor and commend their meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and the good citizens of Memphis, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.